

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A directory server comprising:
  - a supplier server;
  - a consumer server in communication with the supplier server;
  - a plurality of pluggable services that manage replication of data contained within the directory server from the supplier server to the consumer server; and
  - a replica update vector used to perform a comparison to determine a minimal set of updates necessary to synchronize the consumer server with respect to the supplier server, wherein the minimal set of updates is the smallest possible set of updates necessary to synchronize the consumer server with the supplier server;wherein replication of data is managed using the replica update vector.
2. (Original) The directory server of claim 1, wherein the replica update vector is persistently stored in a directory information tree.
3. (Original) The directory server of claim 1, wherein a memory representation of the replica update vector comprises a change sequence number pending list.
4. (Original) The directory server of claim 1, wherein the replica update vector comprises a change sequence number for each known replica and a description of a latest update received from a corresponding replica.
5. (Original) The directory server of claim 1, wherein the replica update vector is accessed through an application programming interface.
6. (Currently Amended) A method of updating a replica update vector, comprising:
  - requesting a replica update vector from a consumer server;
  - sending the replica update vector from the consumer server to a supplier server;
  - comparing the replicate update vector of the consumer server with the replica update vector of the supplier server to obtain a minimal set of updates, wherein the minimal set of updates is the smallest possible set of updates necessary to synchronize the consumer server with the supplier server; and

sending ~~discrepancies of a comparison~~ the minimal set of updates from the supplier server as an update to the replica update vector of the consumer server, ~~if a discrepancy exists.~~

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising, exchanging the replica update vector at the beginning of a replication session.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the replica update vector is persistently stored in a directory information tree.
9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein a memory representation of the replica update vector comprises a change sequence number pending list.
10. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the replica update vector comprises a change sequence number for each known replica and a description of a latest update received from a corresponding replica.
11. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the replica update vector is accessed through an application programming interface.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for updating a replica update vector, comprising:
  - means for requesting a replica update vector from a consumer server;
  - means for sending the replica update vector from the consumer server to a supplier server;
  - means for comparing the replica update vector of the consumer server with the replica update vector of the supplier server to obtain a minimal set of updates, wherein the minimal set of updates is the smallest possible set of updates necessary to synchronize the consumer server with the supplier server; and
  - means for sending ~~discrepancies of a comparison~~ the minimal set of updates from the supplier server as an update to the replica update vector of the consumer server, ~~if a discrepancy exists.~~